The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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FAIR DEAL TO LABOR URGED BY BUREAUS

Washington, Nov. 24.—Fair wage scales, reasonable hours and good working conditions are suggested to arsenal commanders and manufacturers executing orders for the bureau of ordnance and quartermaster department of the army, in general orders issued by those departments.

Attention is called to the fact that in the haste to deliver needed war materials care must be exercised "lest the safeguards with which the people of this country have sought to protect labor should be unwisely and unnecessarily broken down."

"Industrial history proves that reasonable hours, fair working conditions and a proper wage scale are essential to high production," said the statement. "During the war every attempt should be made to conserve in every way possible all of our achievements in the way of social betterment.

"The department wishes to be assured that schedules of hours obviously excessive, or wage scales distinctly unfair, or working conditions such as should not be tolerated will certainly be brought to its attention."

The statement says circumstances are not such as to render appropriate the issuance of definite orders on this subject at this time and that "no effort is made to establish, or even to suggest, definite rules or conduct."

It is recommended that standard of wages already established in the industry and the locality should not be lowered and that the minimum wage rates should be made in proper relation to the cost of living.

The length of the day's work, it is pointed out, should not exceed the customary hours in the particular establishment or the standard already attained in the industry, and in the community. Ten hours is suggested as the maximum for an adult workman and eight hours per shift in continuous 24-hour work.

Manufacturers are asked to guard against unnecessary overtime; to give half holidays on Saturday; to allow all employes at least one day of rest in every seven, and to give them all national holidays.

As to negotiations between employer and employes, the departments suggest that existing channels should be preserved and new ones opened if required, as their need is especially great, "in the light of critical points of controversy which may arise in a time like the present."

Efforts should be made to restrict the work of women to eight hours, the statement continues, and employment of women on night work should be prohibited "as a necessary protection, morally and physically."

Where women are employed to do the work heretofore performed by men it is suggested that the standard of wages not be lowered, and that the hours be not longer than were those of the men replaced.

In the case of children, the order says, the federal child labor law must be strictly observed, and that both boys and girls under 18 years of age should have the same restrictions on their hours as outlined for women employes.

Existing legal standards to prevent danger from fire, accident or other hazards and to provide good light, ventilation, sufficient heat and proper sanitation, the statement continues, should be observed as minimum requirements.

HAS VICTORIA LOAN BOND.

Niagara Falls, Ontario, Can., Nov. 24.—The Journal says: "When Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and the biggest man in the American labor world, came here from Buffalo on a sight-seeing tour, he combined loyalty with the cause of democracy by purchasing a Canadian Victoria liberty bond.

"'I want to subscribe to Canada's Victory loan,' Mr. Gompers told several members of his party on the way to the Falls. 'Just as soon as I get near a place in Canada when I can subscribe to the loan, the Dominion is going to get some of my money. I subscribed to our own Liberty loan and I want to subscribe to Canada's loan. Even if I don't fight in the trenches for democracy my dollars are going to fight for the United States and Canada.'"

Several members of Mr. Gompers' party also subscribed to the Victory loan.

OLD WAGE RATE RESTORES.

Kane, Pa., Nov. 24.—After a lapse of 13 years window glass workmen are to receive wages which will compare favorably with the high wages received under the old Philadelphia wage scale in 1901-02. Workmen here have just been granted an increase of from 25 to 35 per cent, which will enable blowers, cutters, flatteners and gatherers to make wages which will almost equal the amount they received in 1901-02, when the wage scale was the highest in history. From 1903 to 1905 the wage scale of the hand workmen was reduced almost every year.

TELEPHONE GIRLS STRIKE.

Fort Smith, Ark., Nov. 24.—The telephone operators have all the "hellos" tied up in the city and refuse to return until the company pays better wages and gives them shorter hours. The girls offered to furnish operators to answer fire calls, but the company rejected it. Little Rock and Pine Bluff are also tied up, and unless the company makes an effort to meet the demands of the girls all the phones in the state are liable to be silent and unresponsive.

WERE FORCED TO STRIKE.

Dayton, Ohio, Nov. 24. — Union plumbers have ceased work in the plants of Moraine City, Dayton Metal Products, Recording and Computing, Delco and the Ohmer Fare Register. The superintendent for the Domestic Building company is charged with having forced a violation of the agreement with the union by employing nonunion men. Repeated efforts were made to adjust the differences but did not meet success.

LABOR SCARCITY BLAMED.

Washington, Nov. 24.—The express companies are pleading poverty and have appealed to the interstate commerce commission for permission to increase express charges 15 per cent, alleging scarcity of labor. In making their plea before the commission they claim a loss of $39,348 as a result of increased operating expenses and taxes during the past six months.

KEY MEN RAISE WAGES.

Chicago, Nov. 24.—An advance of $2.75 a month is the main item of a settlement of the demands of Illinois Central railroad telegraphers. Hours are adjusted and the men will be paid for Sunday work. Federal mediators assisted in the adjustment.

FROWNS ON STRIKES DURING WAR PERIOD

Denver, Nov. 24.—"Workers in copper mills, mines and smelter, are so important to the government at this time, that a strike is the last thing that should be considered," says Chas. H. Moyer, president of the International Union of Maine, Mill and Smelter Workers, in an appeal to these working men to assure a maximum production and thorough co-operation with the government in fulfilling the country's needs."

"I advise," said President Moyer, "that only in cases where an employer may be so unfair, unjust and unpatriotic as to deny the appeals of our government in this hour of its great need, that the question of strike be considered at all, and I earnestly appeal to our members to comply with requirements of this proclamation so as to avoid doing anything at this time which may injure the great cause of humanity for which our country is now waging battle for the common people of all nations on earth.

"While we must not surrender our right to ask for justice or to strike if necessary, yet, if any act of ours shall result in the stoppage of production, let it be undertaken after the issues have been placed before the proper government representatives and after they have advised us that they are unable to bring about an adjustment. Let us be ready and willing at all times to meet our employers half way, and should they fail to co-operate with us to the end that the country may have the maximum uninterrupted output of copper during the period of war, let the responsibility rest with them and not with the workers."

TRACING FOOD SHORTAGE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 24.—Federal agents investigating the cause of the holding up of hundreds of car loads of perishable food in the different freight yards of the city, have arrived at the conclusion that greedy American commission merchants and dealers have been keeping back the much needed food for higher prices, says the Public Ledger.

Every government agency, state and federal, under whose jurisdiction the case comes now is engaged in an inquiry to determine where the responsibility belongs, and prosecutions soon may follow. The state department of agriculture already has appealed to Food Administrator Hoover to compel the unloading of the cars in this city, as well as the hundreds of other cars held in Pittsburg and other cities of the state. A time limit probably will be set for unloading cars in the future.

Evidence that dealers in this city wantonly have allowed whole carloads of potatoes to spoil rather than sell them at current prices was found yesterday when six carloads of spoiled potatoes were refused acceptance by the consignee.

Another dealer bought them at ninety cents a bushel, seventy cents below the market price, and sold them to downtown hucksters to be sold to the poor. Dealers, it was said, prefer to pay the demurrage on the cars rather than to incur the expense of hauling and storage.

WON FIVE CENTS AN HOUR.

Akron, Ohio, Nov. 24.—After a complete suspension of traffic for five days the Northern Ohio Traction company made peace with its 600 motormen and conductors, granting a flat increase of five cents an hour until May 1 when the company will take up with the men the question of granting another advance of five cents. It was one of the most orderly strikes in the history of that city, not a single disturbance of any kind developed from the time the men left the cars until peace was agreed upon and they returned to their cars again. All the citizens were sympathetic and encouraged the men to remain loyal until an acceptable adjustment was reached. The original demand was for 10 cents per hour and recognition of the union, the company heretofore dealing with the representatives of the men as employes only.

PAID 80 PER CENT PROFIT.

St. Louis, Nov. 24.—Profits of 80 per cent were paid in the first six months of 1917 on the coal mine stock belonging to the estate of the late George Lincoln Sands. This was disclosed in a report filed by the Mercantile Trust company in the St. Louis probate court, showing that $40,000 was paid in dividends on $50,000 worth of stock in the new Staunton Coal company, in the period stated. No report has been made on the dividends since July 1. Sands died November 21, 1916, leaving an estate of $124,000 exclusive of the real estate. The New Staunton Coal company, in which he held 500 shares, has a capital stock of $300,000.

BANKS NOW STRONGER.

Washington, Nov. 24.—The national banks of the country have steadily grown in security, according to a report issued by Controller of the Currency Williams, based on an analysis of bank failures in the United States in the 36 years since 1881.

Up to 1914 depositors' losses from bank failures amounted to 28 cents per $1,000 of all banks' deposits. Within the last three years, however, losses have been only 3 1-2 cents per $1,000 of deposits, and in the year ending last June 30, they were only 2 9-10 cents. Deposits last year totalled $12,709,000,000, and losses were $369,000.

NOW FAIR COMPANIES.

Dayton, Ohio, Nov. 24.—The Electrical Workers' union has made peace with the Hall and Atwood Electric companies after a contest that has been wages for several weeks. The Hall company being the largest employers of electricians in the city it is believed the smaller companies will follow its lead and assure harmony for some time.

SHIP WORKERS UNITE.

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, Nov. 24.—Laborers employed at the Coughlan & Sons' ship yard are joining the union of this calling, following an all-union agreement with this concern.

LAW CONFIRMED

Washington, Nov. 24.—New Jersey opinions holding that the state workmen's compensation law, enacted in 1911, applies to employes injured or killed whose contracts of employment were made in another state was in effect sustained by the supreme court in dismissing the appeal from a judgment obtained against the American Radiator company, of Chicago, for the death in New Jersey of John F. Sogge, Jr.

ORGANIZER FINED ON CHARGE OF VAGRANCY

Oklahoma City, Okla., Nov. 24.—The Oklahoma Federationist gives the following details in reference to the treatment of Organizer Ball at the hands of the city and country authorities in an effort to force him to abandon his organizing work and leave the city:

"This town is too small for the two of us to remain here at one and the same time. You'll either have to leave town or I'll keep you in jail regardless of all judges and courts, and if I can't keep you in jail I'll have my police force beat your head off."

These remarks, liberally interspersed with vile epithets, were made to E. E. Ball, American Federation of Labor organizer by Chief of Police Nichols at the police station after Mr. Ball's arrest on a trumped-up charge of vagrancy.

Mayor Oberholser was called to the station by Nichols immediately after Mr. Ball was arrested and Ball was pointed out to the mayor, with the statement that "Here's that —— I. W. W. — that we have been after for several weeks." The mayor remarked: "What about it?" Whereupon the chief then related that this man should have a similar dose to what a number were given in Tulsa. The mayor made no further comment other than to remark to the chief that "You know my sentiments."

Mr. Ball's room at the Denver hotel was rifled by members of the police department. In the meantime a county charge was placed against him by the county attorney's office.

Police Judge Mitchell informed an attorney employed by the state federation of labor that Mr. Ball's bond would be $20. When that was furnished the judge insisted that Ball leave the city.

"The money of the packers will work wonders. In the first instance I was arrested and taken before Attorney Fain, where I was questioned and asked to show my credentials. I did so and they were evidently satisfactory as I received no more trouble from that source. Since the packers were unable to get me through federal sources, they proceeded along other lines, and anyone familiar with their efforts to stop organization in the past will understand the attitude of the head of the police department and how the wheels were greased for me."

Frank Ellis, president of the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, said:

"We are every one loyal citizens and willing to do our part for the government. We will not have any one among us who is not absolutely loyal and we resent any intimation that we have I. W. W. tendencies or that Ball ever sought to foster strikes among us. We are going to continue our union regardless of what happens to Mr. Ball, and we are going to stand by Ball to the extreme limit, which we believe we have a right to do as American citizens."

FARM FOR EVERY SOLDIER.

Washington, Nov. 24.—A farm for every soldier of the United States who returns from the war is a proposal made by Senator Warren G. Harding of Ohio. The adoption of such a plan, he holds, will go far toward the solution of the problem of land distribution in this country, which Senator Harding considers vital. The government must supervise the distribution of the land to the soldiers, he said.

"The proper distribution of land is the very basis of national wellbeing," said Senator Harding. "The land should, as far as possible, be in the possession of the men who work it. A nation of owners of small farms which support sturdy families is the ideal."

The sturdy farm folk of France, he said, had proved to be the saviors of that country more than once. England's weakness has lain in the fact that her land was in the hands of the few. Now England is endeavoring to solve her land problem and has already done so to a considerable extent in Ireland.

2,670 ACCIDENTAL DEATHS.

Harrisburg, Nov. 24. — The department of labor and industry has issued a comprehensive table showing how 2,670 workers in Pennsylvania industries sustained accidents which resulted fatally in 1916.

It shows the relative dangers in the various classes of industrial work and the principal causes that resulted in fatal injuries in the various classes of industry. Of the dead, 1,789 were married and they left 2,906 dependents. Eleven hundred and ten were killed in general industrial establishments, 1,112 in mines and 448 in public service.

WHY SHOULDN'T THEY?

Denver, Col., Nov. 24.—The chamber maids in the hotels and boarding houses are organizing a union. The girls say they are going after $10 per week, with half day off each week, and pay for overtime. It is said the pay is now $6 and $6.50 per week, and the maids in most instances board themselves.

MANY ASK WAR INSURANCE.

Washington, Nov. 24.—In the first 40 days of its operation the military and naval division of the war-risk insurance bureau has received 64,168 applications for life insurance, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo has announced that applications for more than $552,000,000 had been received. The average amount of insurance applied for is $8603.

TEAMSTERS WIN STRIKE.

Bloomington, Ill., Nov. 24.—The teamsters have been on strike for several days, demanding an increase in wages and better working conditions. A settlement has been reached whereby all the demands were conceded and the union given recognition by all the larger firms in the city.

CARMEN RAISE WAGES.

Seattle, Nov. 24.—An arbitration board has raised wages of Seattle and Tacoma street car employes 4 cents an hour, effective as of August 1 last. Extra men will receive a guarantee of $89 a month during their apprentice period. This is an increase of $15.

RETAIL CLERKS IN LINE.

Salem, Ohio, Nov. 24.—A new union of retail clerks was organized here though the assistance of the officers on the union at East Liverpool, and commences its career with a membership of 65, including a majority of the clerks of this city.

GROCERY CLERKS UNITE.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 24.—Grocery clerks in this city are organizing. Their complaint is long hours and low wages.

PATRIOTIC SUPPORT OF LABOR WILL WIN WAR

New York, Nov. 24.—"Without the whole-hearted co-operation of labor, we cannot look for a successful issue in this great war," said Sir Stephenson Kent, chairman of the mission of the British ministry of munitions, in a talk to newspaper men.

"Upon the correct solution of your labor problems, more perhaps than any of us can imagine, hangs the issue of this war. In my view, either victory or defeat may depend upon it," he said.

"I can assure you that your country, will, in my best judgment, be able to handle successfully any industrial problem that the war will produce. In all the industrial centers we have visited and among all the leaders of organized labor whom we have met, we have found nothing but the most loyal willingness to serve your country in every way that lies within their power."

The British mission came to this country several weeks ago to inform industrial captains here how England solved the problems that now confront the United States.

"HALF PUPILS DEFECTIVE."

Akron, Ohio, Nov. 24.—The awful penalty the children are paying in the "City of Opportunity" because of the "efficiency" in the rubber plants, is told in the following report submitted to the board of health as the result of a recent investigation:

"Nearly half of the pupils of Akron public schools are suffering more or less serious physical defects which should be corrected, according to a report made at the monthly meeting of the board of health by Miss Olive E. Beason, supervising nurse of the children's welfare department of the city.

"The report showed that out of 4,45[illegible] children who were given physical examinations by the school physicians in October, 2,973 were defectives, either in vision, hearing or teeth, or had more serious defects.

Miss Beason advised the board to establish a free dental clinic, where school children could have work done on their teeth. Many, she said, come from families too poor to have this work taken care of as it should be.

"A comparison of the work done by the children's welfare department last month with the same month a year ago showed a big increase in the number of cases taken care of and in the general efficiency of the department. Last month city nurses made 4,000 calls at private homes and took cultures of 1,887 throats.

The children's municipal tuberculosis dispensary, established only six weeks ago, is already supervising the care of nearly 500 cases, Miss Beason reported.

PROTEST SERVICE ACT.

Victoria, B. C., Can., Nov. 24.—Fifteen hundred men at the Trail Smelter are out on strike as a protest against the enforcement of the military service act. They refused to present themselves at tribunals. The situation is serious. Representations have been made to the provincial government, but it is unlikely that the provincial police will be used to enforce the observance of the act.

Premier Brewster was in conference with Major-General Lockie of the district, but the latter is unable to take steps without advice from Ottawa. Premier Brewster is placing the whole situation before the Ottawa authorities.

The employees of the Trail Smelter, mostly all aliens, are said to be determined in their attitude.

They decided not to subscribe to the Victory loan, and a number of them made bonfires of the Victory loan literature.

MEAT 62.2 PER CENT MORE.

Washington, Nov. 24.—Prices of meat animals—hogs, cattle, sheep and chickens—were 62.2 per cent higher on October 15 than a year ago; 87.3 per cent higher than two years ago, and 88.1 per cent higher than the average of the last seven years on that date, the department of agriculture announced.

Prices increased 1.9 per cent from September 15 to October 15, compared with an increase of 1.4 per cent in the same period in the last seven years.

SECURE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Tacoma, Wash., Nov. 24.—"The eight-hour in lumber and shingle industry in the northwest, is fairly established," declares Secretary Jones of the Timber Workers' union.

"The last report on plants in the state of Washington show 78 shingle mills, 32 lumber mills, five logging camps and 14 miscellaneous woodworking establishments in the eight-hour list. Since this report other firms have increased the total to 132 plants in this state alone on an eight-hour basis. Small mills are being added almost every day. While the big lumber and logging combine still holds out for the 10-hour day we have every hope of ultimate victory," he said.

WANT INCREASED WAGES.

St. Louis, Nov. 24.—Iron Molders' local unions, Nos. 59, 220, and 426 of the St. Louis district have made a request of the foundry proprietors for an increase in the wage scale of from $4.50 to $5 for a nine-hour work day, to take effect December 3, 1917, and also ask that the proprietors agree to concede the eight-hour work day to take effect May 1, 1918, without any reduction in wages. An amicable settlement is looked for.

HELPERS ORGANIZE.

Hannibal Mo., Nov. 24.—A Machinist Helpers union has been formed of 50 members and an application for a charter has been forwarded to the Washington office of the International Machinists' Association. The boys were gotten together by Arch Little, organizer for the American Federation of Labor.

TO ADVANCE WAGES.

Barrie, Vt., Nov. 24.—It has just been announced that the 5,500 members of the Granite Cutters union in this district will be advanced 20 per cent in wages beginning April 1. This concession has obviated the possibility of trouble had the action not been taken by the employers.

NEW MOLDERS' UNION.

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 24.—A new union of iron molders has been organized here comprising nearly 100 per cent of all the members of that trade in the city. It includes molders working in both the railroad and contract shops.

STRUCK FOR ONE CENT AND WON THEIR BATTLE

Salt Lake, Utah, Nov. 24.—The Utah Labor News prints the following story:

"William M. Knerr, member of the state industrial commission, who participated in negotiations at Denver, which resulted in full settlement of the long blacksmiths' strike on lines of the Denver & Rio Grande, returned recently to Salt Lake, convinced that 'colective bargaining' between capital and labor may be regarded as an important key to labor problems.

"We reached one important conclusion during the deliberations," said Mr. Knerr. "This is that patience, coupled with collective bargaining, will serve to settle all disputes, however involved they may be, and at a great saving, both to capital and labor. If they only get together when indications point to misunderstanding, and deliberate, patiently and fairly and squarely, then there will be very few strikes.

"A single red penny stood between officials of the Denver & Rio Grande and 227 blacksmiths of the system; a penny per hour, per eight-hour day. The blacksmith wanted that additional penny in their pay envelopes, and when it was not granted they went out on strike June 21. The railroad company granted the increase of a cent an hour at the close of the deliberations in Denver and the blacksmiths returned to work.

"Out of the 227 blacksmith who have been on strike on the lines of the Denver & Rio Grande since late in June, a good share were of the Utah lines and some connected with the Rio Grande shops in Salt Lake. Machinists and other metal tradesmen of the Rio Grande were involved in the disputes, but with them, agreements were reached. The blacksmiths are reported to be highly elated, reports Mr. Knerr.

"Primarily organized labor, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor senses the importance of keeping industries in operations to the highest standard of efficiency while the war is on," added Mr. Knerr. "They actually are highly patriotic and they represent the great backbone of patriotism in the United States. The American Federation of Labor, I feel, is living up to the letter to the promise of absolute loyalty of President Samuel Gompers to the national administration: and it is right and just that members of that body be given full credit for their loyalty.'"

WILL PAY $10 PER WEEK.

San Francisco, Cal., No. 24.—Wages for women engaged in the fish canning industry in California have been fixed by the state industrial welfare commission at a minimum of $10 a week of 48 hours.

When the employment is for less than 48 hours a week the minimum wage must be 25 cents an hour, and where payment is made upon a piece rate, bonus or commission basis, the wages must be not less than the minimum time rate for the number of hours employed.

Excepting in cases of emergency no woman 18 years of age or over may be employed more than eight hours in one day and when in an emergency such women are employed a longer period than eight hours, the wage must be not less than one and one-quarter the rate of wages during regular time.

No minor may be employed more than eight hours a day or 48 hours in a week. Time and one-half must be paid either women or children employed more than six days a week.

WAITERS ARE SUSPECTED.

Chicago, Nov. 24.—Investigation of charges that waiters employed in Chicago hotels were alien enemies, agents of foreign espionage corps eager to glean information from the men of affairs they served has been ordered by the Chicago federation of labor. The federation intends to report the result of its inquiry to federal authorities.

The charges were made by B. M. Parker, representing the waiters' union.

Parker asserted that most waiters serving in large hotels are members of an organization known as the International Geneva association, with headquarters in Dresden, Germany, and that 75 per cent of these waiters are not citizens and that a majority of them are German and Austrian subjects. These waiters have no affiliation with the American labor movement.

CUT OFF HALF HOUR A DAY.

Joplin, Mo., Nov. 24.—After a two weeks' idleness the members of the Iron Molders' union have returned to work. They demanded an eight-hour day at the prevailing wage rate, $4.75. Numerous conferences were held before drastic action was finally decided on. A compromise was reached and the strikers returned at the old wage rate, the hours being reduced to eight and one-half per day. The Webb City and Carterville shops refused to make any concession and have applied to court for an injunction restraining the union and its members from interfering with the operation of their shops.

WON 75 CENTS PER DAY.

Houston, Tex., Nov. 24.—The Electrical Workers' union and the contractors have signed a new agreement which calls for $6 per day, and double time for all overtime, which becomes effective Dec. 1. This is an increase of 75 cents per day and betters our condition in the way of overtime. As our old agreement has not expired, we get the benefit of one month's pay at the advance.

SHOULD BE RELIEVED.

Washington, Nov. 24.—The United States supreme court has just rendered judgments against the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake railroad, for six violations of the hours of service act. The railroad claimed the violations resulted from trains being unavoidably delayed, but the lower court held that the crews could have been relieved before reaching the ends of their runs.

LOSES ARM; GETS $25,000.

New York, Nov. 24.—Otto Monk, a trainman of Lehighton, Pa., has been awarded $25,000 damages against the Lehigh Valley railroad by a federal district court jury. Monk lost his left arm last year when a coal car carrying no signal light switched to a side track and ran him down.

PROFITS IN OIL.

New York, Nov. 24.—The Standard Oil company of Kansas declared a dividend of $6 a share in addition to the usual dividend of $3 for the quarter. Three months ago the extra dividend voted was only $1.

War Policy of American Federation of Labor Unequivocally Indorsed.

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 24.—The war policy of the American Federation of Labor executive council, which was approved at Washington, March 12, last by representatives of national and international unions, has been indorsed by the American Federation of Labor convention by the overwhelming vote of 21,602 to 402. The question came before the convention when it was asked to accept a committee report that full patriotic endorsement be given to the work which has been undertaken by the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy. For nearly four hours the convention listened to charges against individual capitalists and public officials, and to smashing appeals to the men and women of labor to support democracy in its world struggle. Labor's answer to this call is distinct, emphatic and unequivocal.

URGE UNITY WITH FARMERS.

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 24.—Unity between organized labor and the farmers was urged by A. C. Townley, president of the Farmers' Nonpartisan league.

"Let the two great classes of producers join hands behind the government in this war," he said. "Let us put down the profiteer. We would find in a surprisingly short time that our people at home will be better and more economically fed, our forces at the front better and more economically equipped."

The speaker made a bitter attack on the milling interests, declaring that the farmers received only 80 cents a bushel for wheat under a low grading, while the standard wheat flour, No. 1 northern, was selling at $1.80. "But," he added, "all of our 80-cent wheat finds its way into the flour mills and into your flour barrels.

"Those fellows," he continued, "are strong for liberty and democracy. If you hear that the farmers are not in their flag-raisings and parades you will know it is because these millers are leading and the farmers are a bit suspicious of the liberty that may come through the milling interests."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Aberdeen, Wash., Nov. 24.—Typographical union has raised wages 50 cents a day for its members employed on newspapers. The new rates are $5 for day work and $5.50 for night work.

Eugene, Ore., Nov. 24.—An increase of 25 cents a day for machine operators and 50 cents a day for floor men and ad men employed on newspapers, has been secured by the Typographical union.

Dayton, Ohio, Nov. 24.—After a contest continuing for a number of weeks the Walker Printing and Lithographing company was made union. It is one of the most completely equipped plants in the city. The contract calls for union wages, hours and conditions in the composing room.

CHILD LABOR INCREASES.

Harrisburg, Pa., Nov. 24.—State officials say there are more minors employed in Pennsylvania industry now than for years.

In the continuation schools receiving state aid, there were last year 17,636 boys and 12,891 girls. In the day and evening schools last year there were 3,600 men and boys. In the household arts schools 5,517 women and girls. It is planned to increase this number materially.

While it is realized that present conditions are responsible for the large number going to work, it is believed that those who have quit the public schools will, to a large extent, be willing to continue their work either in continuation or night schools.

WHERE WILL IT STOP?

Cleveland, Nov. 24.—The Standard Oil company of Ohio has announced the regular quarterly dividend of $3 a share and an extra dividend of $1 a share, payable January 1 to stockholders of record Nov. 30.

Net assets of Standard Oil of Kansas on December 31, last, were $4,418,683, against $1,032,389 on December 31, 1911. Its surplus at the end of last year was $2,418,683, compared with $1,468,360 in 1911 and $32,289 at the close of 1910.

Solar Refining company, a subsidiary of the Standard, has declared an extra dividend of $25 a share in addition to the regular semi-annual payment of $5 payable December 20 to stock of record Nov. 30.

CRUSHING DEFEAT.

New York, Nov. 24.—The World commenting on the crushing defeat of the pacifists and their supporters, says:

"It was a crushing defeat which overtook the pacifist-socialist element in the convention of the American Federation of Labor yesterday at Buffalo—buried under a shouting and cheering vote of many thousands to a few hundreds. There have been few demonstrations more impressive of American solidarity in the war than this which followed Samuel Gompers' blazing and uncompromising address on the mighty issues involved as affecting democracy and humanity in the world."

FORM NEW UNION.

Port Arthur, Tex., Nov. 24.—A new union of inside lectrical workers has been completed and will co-operate with the Building Trades council in lining up those who have not joined. The linemen, previously organized, will assist in pushing the work to get all the boys in.

WANT NINE-HOUR DAY.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Nov. 24.—Carpenters' union No. 1942 is demanding a nine-hour day and three big shops have closed their doors rather than reduce hours. About 150 carpenters are involved and their union is rapidly becoming 100 per cent strong.

WOMEN WIELD PICKS.

Washington, Nov. 24.—Women track workers are wielding picks and shovels on the road bed of the Pennsylvania railroad between New York and Pittsburgh, according to President Rea of this railroad company, testifying before the interstate commerce commission on freight rate increases.

WON'T ABANDON LABEL.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 24.—Organized bakers have rejected their employers' offer to raise wages $3 a week, providing the union abandons its label.

100,000 JOB HUNTERS DISILLUSIONED YEARLY

Arkon, Ohio, Nov. 24.—R. E. Lee, superintendent of the labor department of the Firestone Rubber Tire Co., in an interview with a reporter of the Times said the three largest rubber companies of Akron have a floating population of 2,000 weekly, making a total of 104,000 a year. This number of men is induced to come to this city who fail to secure jobs. Many of those who are among the selected do not hold the positions on an average of more than 30 days. Heretofore there were a few preferred positions that paid a fairly good wage, but the work is so exacting that few are able to hold out very long. The less desirable jobs are not now much better paid than common labor, the result of severe cuts puts into effect during the past seven months. In some instances, especially in the tire finishing department, the wages have been reduced more than 50 per cent.

According to the compilation of statistics by Mr. Lee the 2,000 new arrivals weekly include only the employes of the Goodrich, the Goodyear and the Firestone companies. There are 30 other rubber companies in Akron, employing from 10 to 5,000 each. In Mr. Lee's calculations they are not included. It is more than probable that at least 500 more are lured to Akron seeking jobs in these factories. Added to the number previously given would swell the grand total to approximately 125,000 men who are induced to take the chances of securing a job in Akron. The number of jobs in the several rubber factories when fully employed does not exceed 55,000. According to these figures there are 70,000 more men induced to come to this city every year than there are positions to fill. Because of the many exaggerated stories circulated through the medium of misleading ads in the papers, telling of the high wages, a constant line of men is kept at the employment offices of the three leading rubber companies.

Of the Firestone, Goodyear and Goodrich six and one-half per cent of their employes leave weekly; one and one-half per cent go to other factories, and five per cent leave the city. Heretofore the same number arrive from "nowhere," as Mr. Lee puts it, to take their places. He also estimates that there are hundreds come who do not even take their trunks out of the station.

City Safety Director Morgan, in commenting on Mr. Lee's statement, said: "Men come here who have been used to clean rooms in private families, and find that in order to sleep at all they must room with some one else and then the chances are that the bed is used in shifts, that is some one else occupies it while the other fellow is working, and the rooms are high priced and are not kept clean."

TALKS TO BUSINESS MEN.

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 24.—In an address to business men on problems affecting capitalists and workers, President Gompers said:

"All that can be done is to solve problems confronting us from day to day so that day by day, we may be better prepared to reach a solution, if solution be possible, of what has been a riddle for ages.

"Neither side can claim all the patriotism, but it is possible to obtain a better understanding so that the standards of American life shall not be lowered and to the end that our boys at the front may be supplied with all that is needful not only for fighting but for their comfort when they are not fighting.

"What we aim to do is to advise with employers of labor to bear in mind that, in recasting our industrial conditions, old ideas must be thrown on the scrap heap and a new conception reached on the rights of others.

"Some ground must be reached on which the industries of our country may be speeded up so that the war may be speedily won. Of its result I have not the slightest mental reservation. It is written in the stars of freedom above us."

TEAMSTERS ADVANCE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 24.—Piano Movers, Chauffeurs and Helpers' union No. 493 has secured an agreement with the Cunningham Piano company after two weeks' strike. Chauffeurs will be paid $25 a week hereafter; helpers, $22, and new men, $18.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 24.—The Yellow Motor Car company has concluded that peace is more profitable than industrial welfare and has signed an agreement with the Chauffeurs and Carriage Drivers' union affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

JEWELRY WORKERS QUIT.

North Attleboro, Mass., Nov. 24.—More than 1,200 members of the Jewelry Workers' union are on strike for shorter hours, increased pay and overtime provisions, tieing up 40 of the 49 factories. Following the action of the workers seven of the 40 factories have offered to compromise by granting a nine-hour day with the present pay for 10 hours and time and one-half for overtime. It is believed that an early adjustment will be secured. Wages have been very low for years.

GIVEN WAGE INCREASE.

Chicago, Nov. 24.—The boilermakers employed on the pipe line and stack work at Gary will hereafter receive 72 1-2 cents per hour; helpers, 62 1-2 cents, and high boiler workers, 80 cents. The men are employed by Hegge & Son of Joliet. The same scale has also been agreed to by the United Boiler works of Hammond. The Grover Tank works of East Chicago refused to meet the new scale conditions and the 100 men employed by that firm are on strike.

NEW SCALE $7 A DAY

Phoenix, Ariz., Nov. 24.—The Plasterers' union has notified the contractors that on and after Nov. 1, the scale of wages would be $7 a day on all new contracts entered into after that date. All work contracted for up to and including the 15th of Nov. will be finished at the old scale. All percentage work after the last mentioned date will be at the new scale rate, $7 per day.

AN ADVANCE CONCEDED.

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 24.—The employing job printers have conceded the following wage advance to the press room employes: Cylinder pressmen, $22; job pressmen, $17; cylinder press feeders, $16; job press feeders, $12. The printers will get $22 per week. The increase was made effective October 6.

COOKS FORM NEW UNION.

Portland, Ore., Nov. 24.—The cooks and their assistants have formed a new union and applied to the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International alliance for a charter.

LABOR AUTOCRATIC, WHINES EMPLOYERS

New York, Nov. 24.—We are patriotic but labor is autocratic is the burden of a whine telegraphed to President Wilson by the National Founders' association, which held its annual convention in this city.

In the telegram it was stated that efforts of these employers to supply the essentials for military equipment would be without avail "unless the present autocratic demands of some branches of labor for purely selfish advantage are dissipated."

In his opening address, William H. Barr, president of the association, snarled at President Wilson's solution of the eight-hour demand of the railroad train service employes. The federal department of labor was also attacked by this "broad-guaged business men" because of its establishment of the United States public service reserve, a movement which is intended to supply necessary labor through voluntary action on the part of workers. President Barr declared that the public service reserve was "substantially held in the grasp of union representatives," and he denounced it as a "surreptitious scheme to unionize all industry."

In an editorial entitled "Where Labor Appears to Advantage," the New York World makes this comment on Barr's outburst:

"Contrasted with the speech of President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, the truculent telegram of the National Founders' association, representing many employers, to President Wilson must make even its author ashamed.

"Besides expressing a desire to find some common ground on which well-disposed capital and labor might be able to adjust their differences during the war, Mr. Gompers suggested as a means to that end recognition of the fact by organizations of employers as well as by labor unions that neither side possesses all the virtues or all the vices.

"Addressing the president, the Founders' association does not hesitate to assume all the virtues and to implicate labor in all the vices.

"Capital in this case is rancorous. Labor is conciliatory. One is self-righteously wrong. The other is considerately and broadly right."

SOLVING FARM PROBLEM.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 24.—Through the co-operation of state labor agents and the federal department of agriculture, the problem of farm labor is well on its way to solution, said Secretary of Agriculture Houston at a conference in this city. The cabinet official said that conditions are still unsettled, but that a little more time given to organization and every menacing factor will be removed.

"We are familiar with the condition with which we are confronted when the nation entered the war, and, of course, it is pertinent that a tremendous readjustment was necessary, particularly as to farm labor. We at once designated agents in each of the 48 states to study the labor needs of farmers, and we have kept in close touch with these agents throughout the year.

"We are satisfied with the progress made thus far, and expect to perfect more effective organization for next season. The problem of furnishing labor to the farmer is no longer acute, and we are hopeful of meeting the farmers' needs as to labor in the order of their urgency."

THEIR NUMBERS INCREASE.

Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 24.—The local union announces strong brotherhoods formed on the Southern system at the following additional points: At Winston-Salem, N. C., and Pinners Point, Va., by the clerks themselves, and at Danville and Louisville, Ky., by the grand lodge of the Brotherhood of Railroad Clerks.

This makes 31 strong locals on the Southern system, embracing a very large membership.

No general formal demands have been made on the company, but conditions each day are becoming more tolerable and locally a slight increase in wages has been granted, in some instances a creditably large amount in comparison with standards heretofore maintained.

WERE LOCKED OUT.

Augusta, Ga., Nov. 24.—The union machinists, pipemen and blacksmiths employed by the Southern Iron and Equipment company are locked out, the company failing to keep an agreement made with them following a strike about September 1. At that time an understanding was reached that their demands, 55 cents an hour and an eight-hour day, would be conceded on October 15. On that date the company notified the men the agreement would not be carried out and locked the men out.

JEWELERS' BATTLE ENDS.

Newark, N. J., Nov. 24.—After a battle of eleven weeks the strike of the union jewelry workers has come to a close. Nineteen factories were involved in the battle. Those returning still retain membership in the union, but the organization is not recognized. Some of the companies settled several weeks ago and in some instances an increase of $5 a week was granted the men and others will start on a new scale of wages on January 1. The union has a membership of 2,000 and is one of the largest in the city.

ITS RAPID PROGRESS.

Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 24.—The Railway Carmen's Journal for the current month reveals the fact that that organization has been making great progress since its last issue. It reports that 44 new lodges were established during the month of October, being more than in any preceding month in the history of the Brotherhood Railway Carmen.

VOLUNTARY CONCESSION.

Chicago, Nov. 24.—The executive board of Broom and Whisk manufacturers voluntarily increased wages 15 per cent over the scale of the signed wage agreement with the Broom and Wisk Workers' union. The agreement expires in September, 1918. The employers recognized the fact of the increased cost of living.

ADVANCE ONE DOLLAR.

Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 24.—Teamsters and Chauffeurs' union has secured an advance of $1 per week in wages as the result of a brief strike, which involved 65 members.

ORGANIZING WOMEN.

Seattle, Nov. 24.—Machinists' union No. 79 has started an organizing campaign among women employed in this craft. The electrical workers having adopted a similar policy.